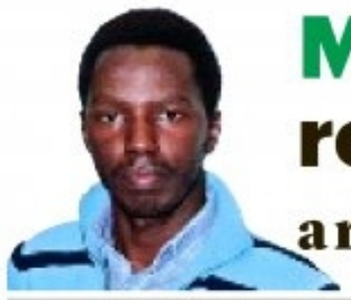

My trip to Berlin: On the front line of Europe's refugee crisis — and what Toronto can learn from it

a report by Gilbert Ngabo metroNEWS

Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016 | High 33°C/Low 21°C Hot and sunny

PARK PLACE

Toronto to showcase its green strategy

metroNEWS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Waking up the east side

DEVELOPMENT

New concert venue floated for Queen St.

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

A new development pitched for the east end could help the neighbourhood shake its reputation as a poor cousin to hopping Queen Street West — at least as far as nightlife goes.

A concert venue that would fit 2,700 people and host 150 shows a year is being proposed for 1661 Queen Street E., near Woodbine Park. Coun. Mary-Margaret McMahon is among those who are excited about the possibility of livening up the area that, as she puts it, is "a little sleepier."

EMM Financial Corp. has already submitted a development proposal to the city. The company will be at the committee of adjustment next week to have the property — currently an off-track betting site — approved for entertainment use, McMahon said.

The project will involve renovations and an addition to the second floor.

Brad Daniels of the Leslieville Business Improvement Area said the BIA isn't taking a position on the proposal since it doesn't fall within their boundaries. But, he personally would love to see another music venue in the neighbourhood.

Realtor Linda Ing-Gilbert said with more young families moving east toward affordable homes, there are more incentives for developers to build cultural sites.

"You see developers or people building theatres, they sort of follow the sugar trail," she said.

But, as those changes start to happen, not everyone's ready to give up the quiet life. There are already plenty of loud concerts in nearby Woodbine Park, said resident Desmond Brown.

"To think that now we're going to get something like this being built on Queen Street and have it all year round, I'm totally against it," he said."

COURTESY MIKE CAMPBELL

THE 905's DEADLY STREETS

Peel Region is seeing a spike in road fatalities — and it may get a whole lot worse

metroNEWS

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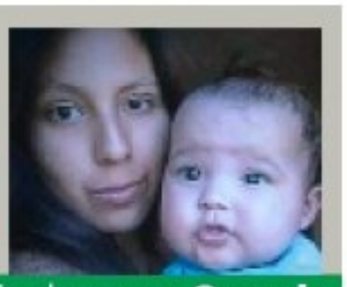


Thousands of indigenous families ineligible for child benefit cheques. **Canada**

Video 'a dangerous stunt'

POKÉMON GO

TTC may lay charges after man walks on subway tracks

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

A fan-made video illustrating the dangers of being distracted by Pokémon Go in public is hitting a bit too close to home for the TTC.

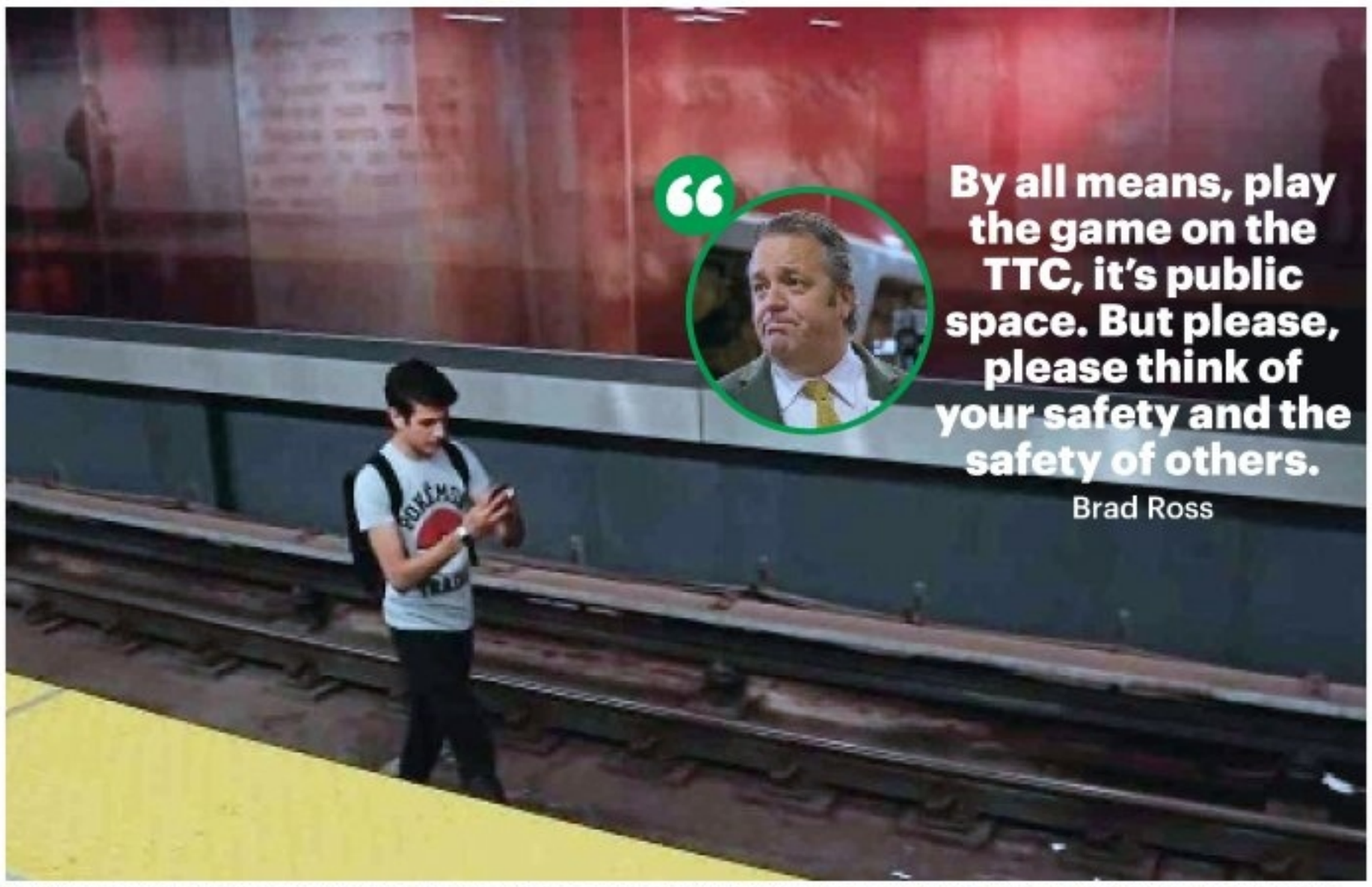
The YouTube clip, uploaded Tuesday and titled Pokémon Go Problems, was shot in Toronto and features a young man walking into lamposts, garbage cans — and in one case, the Toronto Harbour — while playing Pokémon Go.

But, a shot showing the man playing Pokémon while walking along the subway tracks at Union Station has drawn the ire of the TTC.

"They shot this video on our tracks during the day without permission and without any concern for safety," TTC spokesman Brad Ross said.

"It's an incredibly dangerous stunt that could have led to serious injury, or worse, or at the very minimum disrupted thousands of people's commutes."

The TTC is investigating and could lay trespassing charges, Ross said.



TTC spokesman Brad Ross called a video showing someone playing Pokémon Go on the tracks at Union Station "a dangerous stunt". YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

The clip was filmed by Jason D'Souza and Mark Correia , who go by the YouTube handle The Noodle Boys.

D'Souza acknowledged what they did was unsafe, but told Metro it's all part of their brand.

"We want to push social norms, and that's what the video did," he said.

"We were trying to make a more guerrilla-style video ... people gravitate towards it more if it's in that style."

PROCEDURE

Police reviewing policy of forcing women in custody to remove bras

Police in an Ontario community are reviewing their policy of requiring women to remove their bras while in custody, after coming under fire from a judge who admonished the force for the practice.

But as courts and critics decry the policy as discriminatory and even harmful, at least one other force in the country — Vancouver police — has a similar practice in place.

The issue recently came to the fore in the southwestern Ontario community of Chatham, where a judge highlighted the policy while tossing out an impaired driving case against a woman who had to remove her bra before a breathalyzer test in custody.

Chatham-Kent Police Chief Gary Conn has since explained that his force's bra-removal policy is based on safety concerns.

"In this particular case, our primary concern was safety and the taking of clothing which could be used as ligatures for self-harm or strangulation," Conn said in a statement. "It appears that other police services within Ontario are assessing the removal of a bra for a person in custody on a "case by case" basis. Based on this, we (CKPS) are comparing our policy/procedures to other services, keeping an open mind to the amendment of said policy/procedures to be more in line with other services."

The Chatham case isn't the first time a court has taken issue with a broad bra-removal policy — in 2013 a judge found York Regional Police violated a woman's rights with the practice, prompting the force north of Toronto to change its ways. A number of other police forces, including those in Toronto, Halifax and Calgary, as well as Ontario Provincial Police, do not require all women in custody to remove their bras unless there is a case-specific safety concern.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> "In this particular case, our primary concern was safety and the taking of clothing which could be used as ligatures for self-harm. Gary Conn

ANIMAL WELFARE

Giraffe shot with BB gun by zoo staff member: PETA

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is investigating claims a staff member at the Bowmanville Zoo repeatedly shot a giraffe with a BB gun.

Animal rights group PETA says that an alleged eyewitness says they saw a woman in what appeared to be a zoo uniform fire seven times at the giraffe, after closing time at the zoo on June 25.

PETA notified the OSPCA on Tuesday.

The Bowmanville Zoo, an exotic animal attraction east of Toronto, is set to close this year after the zoo said previous allegations of animal cruelty caused a drop in attendance.

The zoo did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the BB gun allegations.

PETA has also released video of a BB gun hanging on the wall of what the organization says is the Bowmanville Zoo's baboon barn.

In the video, a woman is heard saying the BB gun is a "tool" to get the animals to behave, but that it is not loaded and is not used to hurt animals. Asked if it is the sound of the gun that frightens the animals, she responds in the affirmative.

If a person is found guilty of animal cruelty in Ontario, they can face a maximum sentence of two years in jail, a fine of $60,000 and a lifetime ban from owning animals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Officer found not guilty

A Toronto police officer who was seen on video repeatedly striking a man during an arrest has been found not guilty of assault causing bodily harm.

Superior Court Justice Bonnie Croll delivered the verdict Wednesday afternoon.

Const. Christian Dobbs was charged following a probe by the province's the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) into his arrest of Raymond Costain outside the King Edward Hotel in the early hours of April 12, 2010.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Support worker pleads guilty to sexual assault

A personal support worker who pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a 95-year-old man in his care was sentenced to 23 months in custody Wednesday morning.

Danilo Alcala, 62, admitted to committing the offences three out of the six times the man was in his care last July. They included three counts of sexual assault and three counts of sexual exploitation of a person with a disability.

The victim has dementia and needed help getting dressed and bathing. His identity is protected by a publication ban.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Officer charged with perjury in man's arrest

The ongoing criminal investigation into the "egregious conduct" of four Toronto officers accused of planting heroin on a car dashboard then providing false testimony in court has uncovered fresh evidence against one of the officers, who now faces three new criminal charges in connection to a separate arrest of the same alleged victim.

On Wednesday, Toronto police Const. Benjamin Elliot, 33, was charged with one new count of perjury and two additional charges of obstruct justice stemming from the arrest of Toronto man Nguyen Son Tran. Elliot, a nine-year member of the force, is one of four officers already embroiled in a rare criminal case that made headlines earlier this year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Original O Canada unearthed

HISTORY

Anthem has undergone major changes over the years

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

You'd think Canada had always been the "true north, strong and free." But, turns out, it hasn't always been inked in our national anthem.

A rare copy of what's described as the original version of O Canada was recently unearthed from the deepest corners of storage at the University of Toronto's Robarts Library.

It's a direct translation of the French rendition of the song, first written in 1880 — more than two decades before the current English version was written by Robert Weir in 1908.

Helen Taylor, a British singer, did the translation and first performed it in 1915 at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, paying homage to Canadian soldiers killed in World War I.

Instead of using the phrase "true north, strong and free," Taylor's translation praises the bravery of Canadian soldiers in the ancient English style: "Thine arm so great and glorious, both sword and cross doth bear, thine annals all victorious, thy gallant deeds declare."

The anthem has undergone so many changes over the years, it's hard to keep up. As many as 16 versions have been in circulation, according to research and records on file at Robarts, as people from different parts of the country championed their own views even after confederation.

Copies of various versions of O Canada were recently unearthed at the University of Toronto's Robarts Library. CONTRIBUTED

> **All the changes have been an attempt at expressing what's seen as Canadian identity and values.**
> Timothy Neufeldt, music librarian at UofT

"Canada has been a long history of struggle and changes," said Pearce Carefoote, a cataloguer at UofT's Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

Weir's original take on O Canada was gender neutral, but he changed the lyrics himself in 1914 to "in all thy sons command" from "thou dost in us command." The somewhat controversial religious verse "God keep our land" was added in 1926.

Suggestions to alter O Canada haven't entirely died off, of course. Last month, parliament approved tweaking the song's lyrics to, once again, make the anthem gender neutral — the first successful vote to change the lyrics since 1926.

But Timothy Neufeldt, music librarian at UofT, doesn't expect to see the move replicated in the near future.

"All the changes have been an attempt at expressing what's seen as Canadian identity and values, appropriate for the current generations," he said. "As long as the words we have are nonpartisan and do not alienate anybody, we shouldn't expect to see any more changes soon."

The oldest copy of O Canada on record was discovered in storage at UofT's Robarts Library. CONTRIBUTED

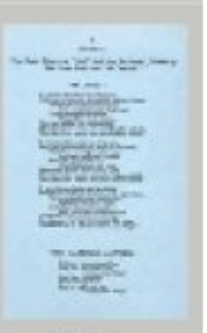
LYRICS

How the first two verses of O Canada have changed over time:

Grant Balfour, 1900:
O Canada, Dominion of the North
How vast the path, where or thy gun rides forth!

James Acton, 1907:
O Canada, Beloved Fatherland
Thy brow is wreathed with maple garland

Christopher Marks, 1914:
O Canada, thy voice goes o'er the sea
Home of the brave and land of liberty

EXHIBIT

The newly discovered O Canada translation from 1880 will be one of 16 versions of the song on display at next year's exhibition dubbed 'Struggle and Story: Canada in Print' at the University of Toronto.

The exhibition is part of the country's 150th anniversary celebrations.

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City doesn't have space for artifacts

HISTORY

Councillor calls for action on archeological objects

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Toronto may be known for its shiny new condos, but it needs to do a better job taking care of its archeological treasures, says Coun. Mike Layton.

Layton is leading a motion that will see the city take stock of artifacts that have been unearthed and look at facilities where they could be preserved.

Right now, many are in the hands of the archeology firms that dug them up or are scattered "all over the city" in boxes and basements, Layton said.

"We're in danger of actually losing some of these artifacts, let alone the opportunity to actually have a learning moment about our city, our region and our country," he said.

The city's Official Plan calls for it to accept archeological objects found during construction, but current storage facilities are full.

New artifacts keep being unearthed during developments, including remains from an 1840s black church and a synagogue, found last year at the site of a new courthouse behind built behind city hall, said archeologist Andrew Stewart, who calls the build-up "a crisis."

Ron Williamson, chief archeologist at Archaeological Services Inc., said provincial law is strong on the need for archeological digs around developments but weak on what happens to what's found.

Archeologists are left to protect pieces of history, from First Nations arrowheads to cutlery used by early immigrants.

Williamson would love to see the items in a museum. First Nations artifacts, in particular, shouldn't be locked behind closed doors, he said.

"We have a number of groups that would like to see their history interpreted, but with what material?" he asked.

"And, if you're an indigenous person, it's not just important, there's a moral issue here."

This dig behind city hall unearthed the remains of a black church and synagogue from the 1840s. But the artifacts found have no permanent home. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

MISSISSAUGA

Muslim mom claims unfair treatment at public pool

A Mississauga woman who was told she and her daughter had to leave a public swimming pool says city staff discriminated against them for being Muslim.

Shazia Dawood took her 11-year-old daughter Birra Alyas to the Applewood Heights outdoor pool in Mississauga on Friday. While watching her daughter, who has autism, swim in the shallow end, Dawood said a lifeguard approached her and told her she must be in the pool with her daughter and within arm's reach for safety reasons.

Dawood, who did not bring a swimsuit with her, explained she wouldn't be swimming due to religious reasons, since there were men in the pool. Instead, she'd stand at the edge and make sure her daughter played in the shallow end only.

But the lifeguard told Dawood they'd have to leave if she wasn't going to get in the water, she says.

"When I saw my daughter, the tears on her eyes, I said no. I decided I will not go," said Dawood.

The two staff called security, who forced Dawood and her daughter to leave but advised her to contact the city regarding the incident. Dawood said the lifeguard and her coworker laughed as this went on.

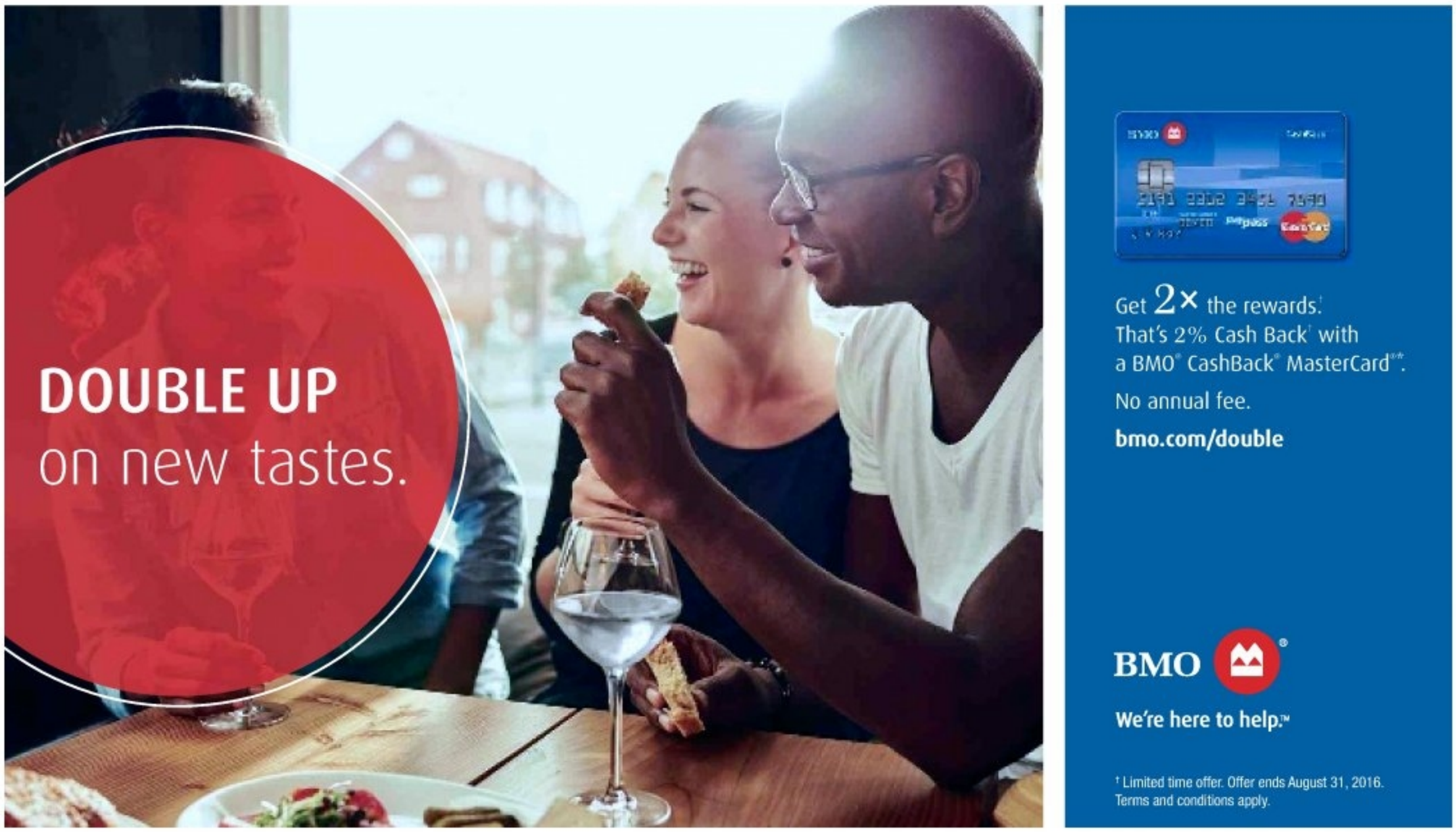
Shazia Dawood and her daughter, Birra Alyas. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"I was shocked," she said. "I said that was only racism because I didn't do anything."

Dawood said Mississauga's aquatics manager later told her the lifeguards were concerned about her daughter swimming in the deep end, which Dawood insists did not occur, and may have thought she was under the age of nine.

Children between six and nine years old must be directly supervised in the water and within arms' reach, according to the city's aquatics admissions standards.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Trump, yoga top searches

TECHNOLOGY

Public library dashboard tracks queries

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Bulletproof coffee, brain games for puppies, Donald Trump sucks.

What do they all have in common? They're all recent searches that have been done on the Toronto Public Library's website.

The library has developed a tool using Google analytics that pulls search topics into one spot and updates in real time, offering a fascinating glimpse into the city's psyche — and a slightly addictive browser screen.

"It provides a window into the whole range of questions, needs, and interests people bring to the public library," said library user experience specialist Sandra Gornall, who added there are about 35,000 searches done each day at Toronto libraries.

Developer Ian Strang said he took on the project as a challenge in his free time because his colleagues were curious about what people were searching for.

The dashboard has actually been around for about a year but flew mostly under the radar until it was "discovered" by the public last week after the library's Ask Me Anything event on Reddit.

The dashboard comes from a part of the library called "labs," devoted not to core business but to interesting side projects that could one day shape policy.

"It's a place for us to sort of experiment, develop some skills that we then can move on and use to provide more core services to the people of Toronto," Strang said.

Toronto Public Library's dashboard tool shows what people in the city are wondering about. Over the last 30 days, popular searches have included yoga, knitting, Minecraft, Excel, GMAT, Zootopia and Game of Thrones. COURTESY TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

LITERATURE

Canadian authors get provincial push

Ontario will incorporate the work of more Canadian authors into school curricula as part of a new provincial culture strategy unveiled Wednesday by Tourism and Culture Minister Eleanor McMahon.

"We're going to get more books by Canadian authors into the hands of our school-age children," McMahon announced at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

"We will establish a new fund for our publishers to create educational resources that can be used in the classroom so that more educational content is Canadian content."

Author Margaret Atwood said she was "impressed" with Ontario's first culture strategy, and agreed it will strengthen arts and culture in the province.

"I am particularly pleased that the strategy will help publishers to develop curriculum tools that will support teachers and facilitate the use of Canadian books in schools and inspire children to read the diverse and compelling stories of our own talented authors — and perhaps to become writers themselves," Atwood said in a statement.

Another new fund will be created to support cultural activities in First Nations communities, including camps for young people that promote awareness of traditional knowledge and help build leadership skills.

Margaret Atwood
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

There will also be technical and business skills training for some of the 280,000 workers in Ontario's cultural sector, which McMahon said adds more than $25 billion a year to the economy.

"We will work to inspire the next generation of Ontarians to pursue careers in the culture sector, while helping to provide today's students and employees with the skills they need to succeed," she said.

About 3,000 people told the government what they value about arts and culture during three months of public consultations last fall, and their input helped shape the new policy, added McMahon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEW YORK

Yaffe named consul general

From librarian in Winnipeg to media mogul in Toronto, the next stop for Phyllis Yaffe is New York where she'll take on the role of Canada's consul general.

"I am delighted and honoured by the opportunity to serve Canada and to do it in a fabulous place like New York," said Yaffe, one of 26 diplomatic appointments announced by Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion on Tuesday.

Born in Winnipeg in 1949, Yaffe earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Manitoba and a bachelor of library science degree from the University of Alberta before coming to Toronto for her master's degree in library science from the University of Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Phyllis Yaffe
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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METRO SUMMER FIELD TRIP

Keep your eyes on the skies

A spirit for adventure takes flight on a bird-watching tour of Toronto's Humber Bay Park LIZ BEDDALL METRO

Seasoned birder Nancy Barrett arrives at Humber Bay Park armed with her favourite lens, a small pair of binoculars and natural curiosity. Along the park's many trails, the endlessly knowledgeable member of Toronto's Ornithological Club doesn't shy away from making use of iBird — a phone application that acts as a modern field guide complete with identifying photos, range maps and bird calls. Getting to know your wildlife subjects and their habits in depth, she explains, is of utmost importance to spotting them. Along the lush summer trails of the city's west end, Barrett's keen eyes catch a red-winged blackbird, mockingbird, yellow warbler and a family of Great Egrets along the park's waterfront. But seeking out a serious look at any wild animal takes time, patience and willingness to learn. So if you spot your favourite sparrow in the sky, says Barrett, find a hidden nook in the area, get comfortable, keep quiet and get carried away by nature. "Being outdoors surrounded by wildlife is like a drug," says Barrett. "The hurrying and stress — it's how to get away from it instantly."

T.O.'S BEST BIRD-WATCHING SPOTS

- Tommy Thompson Park
- Toronto Islands
- Col. Sam Smith Park
- High Park
- Humber Bay Park
- Rouge National Urban Park

TRENDS

Don't pooh-pooh poop-themed café

Toronto is joining the (bowel) movement: A poop-themed café is coming to Koreatown.

Poop Café Dessert Bar, which will be located at 706 Bloor St. W., is set to open mid-August.

"I'm trying to make poop cute," said owner Lien Nguyen, who first came across the concept while visiting her mother in Taiwan a couple years ago.

"We checked out a toilet-themed restaurant and I just loved it. It's funny to put food and poop together; it's a great comparison," she added.

"It stayed in my mind for a long time. As soon as I finished school, I said, 'OK, I'm going to bring the restaurant to Toronto.'"

The recent George Brown College graduate earned her credentials in culinary management. She plans to focus her menu around traditional Asian desserts like patbingsoo (red beans with ice) and is hoping that, through this enterprise, "people will change their minds about poo."

"(It's) considered very disgusting, (something) you can't talk about when you're eating," she said … until now.

All of the poo-ticular items available at the café will be brown, formed like a stool and served in toilet-shaped dishes, said Nguyen, who plans to seasonally change up the menu to reflect customer feedback.

While the "latest lavatorial trend" might be new to Toronto, restaurants around the world have already embraced the bowl.

The Crazy Toilet Café opened in Moscow last year, as did The Ddong Café in Seoul and Boracay Toilet in the Philippines. Similar restaurants exist in Indonesia, China and Japan.

Modern Toilet, the restaurant in Taiwan that inspired Nugyen and many other entrepooneurs, has been around since 2004.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Interior of Poop Café, a dessert bar under renovations in Koreatown on Bloor Street West. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Senior woman likely abducted

CRIME

Walker thrown into pickup truck, woman lifted into cab

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Toronto police are investigating the possible abduction of an elderly woman in the city's west end.

Witnesses reported the woman was walking in the area of Springhurst and Spencer about 2:30 p.m. Tuesday when a pickup stopped and the driver lifted her into the cab. The woman's walker was thrown into the bed of the truck, police said.

"The woman was yelling once the vehicle drove away," said police spokeswoman Const. Jenifferjit Sidhu. "That's why we think she was aggressively taken."

> **"We don't know who she is, apart from being a woman with a walker.**
>
> Const. Jenifferjit Sidhu

The woman is described as 5-foot-2 with a medium to heavy build and long grey hair. She was wearing dark clothing.

Part of the investigation includes reviewing security camera footage from the area in hopes of finding the truck's licence plate number.

Police are also knocking on doors, asking people in the area if anyone knew the person or recorded the license plate.

"So far, negative result," Sidhu said Wednesday. "We don't know who she is, apart from being a woman with a walker."

Police are asking anyone with information to call Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS.

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Thirteen pedestrians were killed in Peel Region last year including a 46-year-old woman at Seneca Avenue and Lakeshore Road in Port Credit. So far this year, six pedestrians and two cyclists have been killed. STEPHEN UHRANEY

'Nothing outstrips' pedestrian safety

PEEL REGION ROADS

Calls to lower limits, calm traffic to stem tragic 905 tide

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The day after a 17-year-old cyclist was killed in Brampton, politicians and advocates say it's time for the 905 to get "proactive" about road safety.

Six pedestrians and two cyclists have been killed. If the trend continues it will be the most deadly year on Peel Region roads since 2011.

Those killed since June include a 71-year-old woman run over Sunday outside a wedding in Brampton, as well as 58-year-old Steve Hancock, a former Olympian who was hit by a car while cycling in Mississauga.

Mississauga councillor Jim Tovey says his constituents and colleagues feel suburban roadways are becoming less safe for people who aren't travelling in cars.

"The number one topic for all of us is speeding and pedestrian safety," he said. "Nothing outstrips it."

Peel Region, particularly Mississauga, is among the fastest growing population centres in Canada. There's also a condo boom under way in the 905, leading to increasingly dense neighbourhoods with more pedestrian activity.

In a region of car-centric communities connected by high-speed arterial roads, Tovey is concerned the changes will lead to more fatalities. He wants to see speed limits lowered in Mississauga and recently spearheaded an $80,000 traffic calming pilot project in the city.

"The increasing gridlock in the city is turning our residential streets into de facto arterials," he said. "We need to get more proactive about this."

Tovey also wants more engineering solutions implemented on dangerous roads. He said a summer patio program that narrowed Lake Shore Boulevard led to a speed reduction of at least 10 km/h.

"But as soon as they got past it, they floored it," he said.

Irwin Nayer, vice-chair of the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee, said the city needs to build more on-road bike paths. The vast majority of bike infrastructure in Mississauga consists of off-road paths aimed at recreational cycling, he said.

"We've tried to separate cyclists from vehicles and, in doing so, we haven't created the mindset among motorists that we need to be sharing the road," he said.

Like Tovey, Nayer said growth and density in the 905 will lead to an increase in cycling, and he hopes the region responds accordingly.

"There will be a cycle track as part of the LRT development along Hurontario. There's no question it will increase mode share," he said. "Now the question is do you wait to establish that mode share before you build the infrastructure, or do you build the infrastructure now because it's the right thing to do?"

2011

2011 was recorded as the most deadly year on Peel Roads in recent history. Four pedestrians and two cyclists were killed in that 12-month period.

> **The increasing gridlock in the city is turning our residential streets into de facto arterials. We need to get more proactive.**
> Jim Tovey, Mississauga councillor

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URBAN PLANNING

City leaders off to Toronto to learn how to improve parks

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The greenest of North America's green are converging on Toronto this weekend for a lesson — or two — in developing urban parks.

More than 30 leaders in park conservancy will tour Toronto in conjunction with City Park Alliance, a Washington D.C.-based organization working to improve urban green space in North America.

City staff say it's an opportunity for Toronto to showcase how it became "a city within a park," while also learning from other jurisdictions such as New York, Los Angeles and Seattle.

"The goal is to examine how parks play a role in city building and neighbourhood development," said the city's parks and recreation spokesman, Matthew Cutler.

Toronto has a successful track record of incorporating park life into communities, Cutler said, citing examples such as Corktown Commons, an anchor park in the new west Donlands neighbourhood, the revamped Regent Park athletic grounds and High Park.

The tour comes at a time when Toronto is looking to further develop its green space through projects such as the Under Gardiner, the Green Line and the Don River Valley Park.

"Those are some exciting things happening around parks in Toronto," said Park People founder Dave Harvey. "It's the right time to be selfish and learn a great deal from these people's feedback."

> "Parks go beyond just being lovely places. They're tools of social cohesion and city building.
> Matthew Cutler

Toronto Music Garden is one of the many green spaces to be featured this weekend. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

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Indigenous children are missing out on benefits

POVERTY

Thousands on reserves aren't eligible due to no taxes filed

Chantal Perrault and her five-month-old baby Harlow, from the Red Gut First Nation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The first monthly Canada child benefit cheques, worth up to $533 per child, went out to more than 3 million homes Wednesday.

But because 18-year-old Chantal Perrault has never filed a tax return, her five-month-old baby Harlow is missing out.

"Wow, that is a lot of money. It would buy a lot of baby formula," she said in a phone interview from Red Gut First Nation reserve near Fort Frances, Ont., where she lives in band housing with Harlow's father, grandparents and two cousins.

Perrault is among thousands of indigenous parents on reserves who don't regularly file tax returns, and therefore aren't eligible to receive the income-based benefit aimed at lifting about 300,000 Canadian children out of poverty.

The benefit is expected to help about 8,000 indigenous children escape poverty. But 16,000 would be helped if all parents on reserve filed their taxes, The Canadian Press reported.

Indigenous children are twice as likely to live in poverty as non-aboriginal kids, according to a recent study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, which found poverty rates among First Nations children living on reserves are about 60 per cent.

Canada Revenue Agency doesn't track the percentage of tax filers on reserve, but a small 2010 study put the number as high as 50 per cent.

Families with net annual incomes below $30,000 receive the maximum $6,400 a year for each child under age six and $5,400 per child for those from age six through 17.

> **Wow, that is a lot of money. It would buy a lot of baby formula.**
> Chantal Perrault

Numerous government departments are working together to create greater awareness of federal benefits and to held individuals file taxes, said a spokesman for Families, Children and Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos, who is in charge of the program.

"Minister Duclos has discussed this issue with indigenous leaders and has asked Service Canada to reach out to indigenous communities to support access to needed documents," Mathieu Filion added, referring to social insurance numbers and birth certificates. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Halifax city Coun. Gloria McCluskey is catching Pokémon and naming

She's a Halifax councillor

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Long-time councillor and former Dartmouth mayor Gloria McCluskey is claiming a new title: "princess of Pokémon."

I met up with McCluskey in the backyard of her Victoria Road home on Wednesday afternoon to chat about her newfound love of the Pokémon Go app, which she has yet to download but said she's been playing via her son's account.

"I know somebody who walked 5.5 (kilometres) the other day who never walks. It's great," McCluskey said, referring to how players of the game need to move around to catch Pokémon or hatch special eggs.

Although McCluskey said she's not sure what Pokémon she has previously caught, it "wasn't very big."

"Some of them are big and ugly. I'm going to name the councillors

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FW-25: METRO TORONTO

her colleagues after them. JEFF HARPER/METRO

and 'princess of Pokémon'

after them," McCluskey said.

"I have one for Waye (Mason), it's 'Ratta-something,' " she added with a laugh about the Halifax councillor, a frequent sparring partner across the council table.

She was recently asked if she was the only councillor using the game, at which she scoffed and answered, "I'm the princess of Pokémon."

"No one's on there. I know I'm the coolest one; the oldest but the coolest," McCluskey laughed.

Since no Pokémon were hanging in McCluskey's backyard, I walked down the sunny sidewalk with the councillor towards the closest Poké gym to see if we spotted any along the way.

McCluskey waved to a woman who pulled up in a car as we passed a stop sign, and yelled out that she was playing Pokémon Go. The woman laughed and said, "We are too right now!" as a kid in the passenger seat held up their phone.

FRANCE

Student killed in Nice had 'so much life'

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Flags at MacEwan University were at half staff Wednesday in remembrance of Mykhaylo Bazelevskyy, known as Misha.

"He had his feet in every single community that he could have, whether it was athletics, student clubs, volunteering or academic endeavours," said Danika McConnell, president of the student's association.

"It seemed like everyone knew his name and knew his face, he was a leader and a friend."

Bazelevskyy, 22, was out to watch the fireworks in Nice, France last Thursday when a man plowed a 19-tonne truck into the crowd gathered to celebrate Bastille Day.

Bazelevskyy was among the 84 killed.

The Ukrainian business student was studying in Edmonton, and was in Nice for a three-week program at the European Innovation Academy, along with four other MacEwan students and a member of the faculty. All others from the school in Nice are safe.

Mykhaylo (Misha) Bazelevskyy EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACADEMY/TWITTER

Although he went missing immediately, his death was confirmed Tuesday by authorities.

Bazelevskyy had embraced student life at MacEwan. He worked as a resident adviser, ran for the cross-country team and served on student government.

In a statement, MacEwan president David Atkinson said the school will continue to offer any assistance they can to Bazelevskyy's family.

"There is no greater loss to a university than a student who has so much life and promise ahead of him."

IN BRIEF

Post-Daesh challenges come into focus

With a military victory over Daesh in sight, Canada and its allies are focusing on what comes next — keeping Iraq together and stopping the spread of terror. Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan were in Washington, where they and heard that the fight against Daesh was going better than expected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

QUEBEC

Group to begin testing Zika vaccine

A Quebec City-based research team has received the green light to begin testing a Zika vaccine on humans in collaboration with U.S.-based partners.

The researchers based at Universite Laval are the first in Canada to be authorized by Health Canada and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to conduct clinical tests.

The university is one of three sites that hope to begin testing a vaccine for the mosquito-borne virus in the next few days.

The first phase of study involves administering the vaccine to 40 volunteers in Quebec City, Miami and Philadelphia.

Aedes aegypti mosquito

"In phase 1 we're looking only at safety and immunogenicity, or the building of immune protection," said Gary Kobinger, director of Universite Laval's Infectious Disease Research Centre.

"We look at immune responses in those volunteers and compare those to immune responses we have documented in animals that were protected from the infection."

The team is looking to recruit between 10 and 15 healthy volunteers for the Canadian portion of the study.

Kobinger said the DNA-based vaccine has already been tested "extensively" on cells and animals such as mice, guinea pigs and primates. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Turbulent day of protest

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

17 arrested as officers face assaults: Police

Police arrested 17 people Wednesday after a melee broke out during a flag-burning in the streets outside the Republican National Convention.

It was the most turbulent protest since the four-day convention began on Monday. The chaos briefly prevented delegates and members of the media from getting into the Quicken Loans Arena for the proceedings.

Among those arrested was Gregory "Joey" Johnson, whose torching of the flag at a GOP convention three decades ago led to the landmark Supreme Court decision that said flag-burning is speech protected by the First Amendment.

Two officers were assaulted and suffered minor injuries, police said. Two of those arrested were charged with felonious assault on a police officer, the rest with failure to disperse.

Police Chief Calvin Williams said a protester whose pants caught fire got defensive when a police officer tried to put out the blaze. The man assaulted the officer, and "things escalated from there," Williams said.

The melee brought to 22 the number of people arrested during the convention, far fewer than some had feared.

"Right now, I think so far, so good," Williams said.

Carl Dix of the Revolutionary Communist Party said the group organized the burning of the American flag as a "political statement about the crimes of the American empire. There's nothing great about America."

Moments after the flag was set on fire, officers charged in to put it out with an extinguishing spray that some in the crowd thought was pepper spray because of eye irritation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A policeman carrying a U.S. flag pushes people back as an activist is arrested during a protest outside the Republican National Convention in Cleveland on Wednesday.

ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

DAY 3

This guy wants to be vice-president of U.S.

Michael D. Landingham

STEVEN GOETZ/FOR METRO

STEVEN GOETZ METRO'S REPORTER IN CLEVELAND

Michael D. Landingham says Donald Trump could still unite the country if he swapped his running mate Mike Pence for … Michael D. Landingham.

The Cleveland native was in the streets Tuesday talking to anyone who would listen.

"A young black man like myself there would bring people together," Landingham said. "Someone who knows about the struggles between police and African-Americans."

Landingham said the gulf between law enforcement and the black community was "a big misunderstanding on both parts because of the fear-mongering media,"

He said he wasn't sure what Trump actually stood for beyond building a wall with Mexico and opening a new investigation into 9/11.

"I want to say right off the bat, we would have to discuss some things, probably over dinner and a glass of wine so he could see inside my head, I could see inside his head," Landingham said.

Who would pick up the bill?

"I will just to, you know, but we will have to go to McDonald's."

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Many Nice dead were Muslims and foreigners

FRANCE

Of 84 killed, 38 were from 19 different countries

A memorial along the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, southern France, on Wednesday. CLAUDE PARIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Now that the last bodies from the Bastille Day attack have been identified by authorities, it is clear that although the carnage happened on French soil, it disproportionately affected tourists and Muslims.

Among the 84 dead, 38 were from 19 different countries, announced the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were from as close as Italy and Algeria and as far away as Madagascar and Brazil, and included Ukrainian citizen Mykhaylo Bazelevskyy, who had permanent resident status in Canada as a student. If the 200 wounded are included, the number of countries rises to 29, said a ministry spokesman, Romain Nadal.

No official count of Muslim victims exists, but Samy Boubakri, an imam at the Bon Voyage Mosque in Nice, says there were at least 25 Muslims from the local community among the victims. That number rises to 35 if foreign Muslims are included, he said.

"Muslims make up only 7 per cent of the population of France, but at least 30 per cent of the victims of the attack," he said.

Ever since the morning after the attacks, senior members of the Islamic community have been present at the hospitals to console victims' families, lead prayers and offer counselling. Boubakri put his cellphone number on Facebook and promised to answer 24 hours a day.

Beyond spiritual support, the imams have had to step into an unexpected role: defending Islam from angry members of the public who accuse it of being the cause of terrorism.

"It hurts me when people tell me to go back to where I came from. I was born in France, grew up in France. I was educated in France. What do we have to do to finally be accepted as French?" asked Boubakri, who is also a member of the regional Union of Independent Islamic Institutions.

As 42,000 people gathered on the Promenade des Anglais on Monday for a moment of silence, tensions continued to flare. Several acrimonious exchanges between Muslims and non-Muslims were caught on video and posted to Twitter, going viral in minutes.

A small group of people booed Prime Minister Manuel Valls, calling him an "assassin" for failing to assure adequate security for the Bastille Day celebrations.

The state of emergency, which has been in force since the Paris attacks, was scheduled to be lifted next week, but it was extended six months.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MIDDLE EAST

Turkey declares a state of emergency in wake of coup

Turkey's president on Wednesday declared a three-month state of emergency following a botched coup attempt, declaring he would rid the military of the "virus" of subversion and giving the government sweeping powers to expand a crackdown that has already included mass arrests and the closure of hundreds of schools.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was accused of autocratic conduct before the insurrection, said the measure would counter threats to Turkish democracy. Possibly anticipating investor jitters, Erdogan criticized Standard & Poor's for downgrading its credit rating for Turkey deeper into "junk" status and said the country would remain financially disciplined.

The president did not announce details, but the security measure could facilitate longer detentions for many of the nearly 10,000 people who have been rounded up.

Access to the Wikileaks website in Turkey has also been blocked after a group announced that it would release documents on the country's power structure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FRANCE CONTROVERSIAL LABOUR BILL FORCED THROUGH PARLIAMENT Protesters hold placards reading "Everybody hates the labour law" in Paris earlier this month. France adopted a deeply divisive labour bill Wednesday after the government used a special measure to force it through Parliament without a vote, ending months of often violent protests and damaging political division. Prime Minister Manuel Valls argued in Parliament that the bill — which weakens union powers, makes layoffs easier and extends the work week — is necessary to create jobs and make the economy more competitive. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Freer trade top topic at premiers meeting

WHITEHORSE, YUKON

Interprovincial deal close, says B.C. Premier Christy Clark

Provincial and territorial premiers say there's a high degree of support for an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

The premiers are in Whitehorse for their annual summer meeting. They were talking with aboriginal leaders on Wednesday before two days of discussions about other issues which are expected to include freer trade across jurisdictional boundaries.

Host premier Darrell Pasloski said Tuesday the leaders are focused on an agreement that would allow provinces and territories to do business with each other in the same way Canada trades with other countries with which it has free-trade deals.

"It's ridiculous you can't buy B.C. wine in Ontario when you can buy it almost anywhere else around the world," said British Columbia Premier Christy Clark.

Clark said the interprovincial deal is close, but only after intense negotiations.

"President (Barack) Obama says democracy means compromising even when you are 100 per cent right," she said. "And what's happened around the table is every province has been convinced they're 100 per cent right, but nonetheless has found a way to compromise."

B.C. Premier Christy Clark at the meeting of premiers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan signed their own free-trade alliance, the New West Partnership, in April 2010 to improve labour mobility and cut bureaucracy. It was fully implemented in 2013.

The premiers are also expected to discuss health care, climate change and pension reform.

Political scientist Hamish Telford said the meetings allow the premiers to map strategy and co-ordinate their approaches to the federal government on often-complicated and costly issues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DISCOUNT TRAVEL

NewLeaf airline allows bids on unsold seats

Canada's newest discount airline says it will let travellers bid on unsold seats.

NewLeaf says the idea is part of a partnership with Calgary-based company Jump On Flyaways.

Roger Jewitt, CEO of Jump On, says there are a lot of airline seats that fly empty every year because airlines use complicated revenue management techniques to maximize their seat revenue. He says Jump On's business model is to collect bids on the potentially unsold seats, and let the airlines consider the best bid.

He says it is conceivable a person could be the only bidder on a particular seat and get the flight for $1, though the company's website notes air travel partners will consider "reasonable" bids and can decline them.

Jump On opened its online portal for NewLeaf's 11 routes on July 19. The travel company's destinations include Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Abbotsford, Hamilton, Halifax, Kamloops, Moncton, Kelowna and Victoria.

NewLeaf is the first airline to partner with Jump On to offer seat bidding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jim Young, president and CEO of NewLeaf Travel, speaks to media in Winnipeg. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOOD

Listeria fear prompts hot dog, corn dog recall

More than 372,000 pounds of hot dogs and corn dogs made between July 10 and 13 are being recalled over concerns of listeria contamination.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says Bar-S Foods is recalling five chicken and pork products, including bun-length and classic franks made with chicken and pork, classic corn dogs and Signature Pick 5 corn dogs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Thursday, July 21, 2016

GILBERT NGABO ON CANADA'S GOOD EXAMPLE

The immigration tradition we've built in this country is special and has made us a model for the world, but it could fall apart if we don't work to maintain it.

There's a primary school in western Berlin where certain students are obliged to come in later and leave earlier than other students.

That group is composed of children of recent immigrants, mainly refugees from Syria, Eritrea, Iraq and Afghanistan. They're members of what's known in German education circles as "welcome classes."

When I and 17 other international journalists visited the school late last month — part of a conference on an invitation from the German Federal Foreign Office to learn about the country's immigration and integration policies — a welcome-class teacher explained the bizarre scheduling: others at the school "are afraid" of the unknown. Because the new kids are immigrants and don't speak German yet, they're completely separated from other students at school, to avoid any potential conflicts.

To me, that stood in contrast to what integration efforts look like in Canada. In Toronto, I've met with and reported on Syrian refugees, and I've seen how kids thrive studying and socializing with other children. The welcome-classes suggested to me that the immigration tradition we've built in Canada, which is special and has made us a model for the rest of the world, could fall apart if we don't work to maintain it. If separating schoolchildren could become necessary in Germany — a prosperous liberal democracy whose population is 20 per cent recent immigrants, a country that has opened its doors to about a million Syrian refugees — it could happen here.

There are dangerous sentiments in this country, and we do ourselves no favours by ignoring them.

Having lived in Toronto for the past six years, I'm used to seeing a true picture of multiculturalism. Stand at any corner of the downtown street, and you're likely to see Asian, black, Indian, Caucasian or Arab people. That isn't a common sight on a Berlin street. Every time I took a stroll around, it was easy to feel like a stranger, except once when I stumbled upon a group of guys watching soccer at a makeshift beach on a sidewalk, which I quickly joined. Sports has a way of easing things. How uncomfortable would a Syrian male, who speaks no German and no English, feel on such streets?

A woman holds a placard during a Pegida demonstration in February. Far-right movements are ascendant all over Europe. AP

Other factors would create discomfort, too. In Dresden, a city 200 kilometres south of Berlin, a radical movement, Pegida, is ascendant. Known for its inflammatory rhetoric against what its ringleaders call "Islamization" of the West, the group has, since its modest Facebook launch in 2014, attracted hundreds of thousands of active followers on its social media. Every Monday morning, no less than 2,000 people storm the city's streets, spreading xenophobic and Islamophobic messages: "Stop Islamization of Europe." "Rape culture is being imported." "Stop the invasion." "Refugees, go home."

If you want to dismiss them as just a bunch of rogue members of the society, think again. Political science professor Werner Patzelt of Dresden Technical University, who recently published a book about the movement, believes Pegida has grown as a result of the country's failure to secure social coherence on immigration and integration matters. He says Pegida has derived even more legitimacy, in the eyes of ordinary citizens, from the growing number of terrorist attacks, especially when someone of an immigrant background is involved. The fear produced by the attacks is powerful.

And the fear lives here, too. Yes, it's true that when Canada recently worked around the clock to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees, the policy was met internally with more public applause than criticism. And it's also true that my fellow delegates at the week-long conference in Germany marvelled when I told them of the many local community initiatives working to make refugees feel welcome and fully integrated in Canada. But what I didn't mention there were the occasional racist incidents: a hijab-wearing woman being assaulted, a mosque being torched, people being told to "go back" wherever they came from.

By and large, we do a great and enviable job of making immigrants feel welcome, but we don't always do a great job of admitting, either to ourselves or to the rest of the world, the ways in which we fall short. We may not have politicians openly calling for the building of an actual border wall or the deportation of Muslims. We may not have schools openly cordoning off refugee students from other kids. We may not have large public assemblies against immigration. But there are dangerous sentiments in this country, just as there are anywhere else, and we do ourselves no favours by ignoring them.

There's no reason why what is now a small, hateful minority could not, under certain circumstances, or given a certain chain of events, gain wider influence. Terrorist attacks on our own soil, an uptick in homegrown radicalization, a Trump presidency south of the border — any or all of these could have negative impacts on Canada's overall attitude towards immigration.

It's up to every one of us to continue maintaining a uniquely Canadian system that is the envy of the world.

Gilbert Ngabo is a reporter for Metro Toronto

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

For indigenous women, the pain of daily life can't be conveyed in statistics

Last month, on June 8, a new and much-lauded survey charted what one indigenous activist called "a growing awareness" among Canadians of indigenous issues.

"Sympathy for aboriginals rising: survey" read The Globe and Mail's headline, adding that three quarters of Canadians want to "see social and economic disparities addressed."

That same day, news broke in Calgary of body parts found in a park. They would turn out to be part of the remains of Joey English, a 25-year-old indigenous woman.

Police have not ruled her death a homicide. Instead, a man, Joshua Jordan Weise, stands accused of offering an indignity to human remains. It's alleged English died in his home and he dismembered her body and sought to hide it. Police have not yet said how she died.

Stephanie, English's mother, says she feels betrayed by the justice system. She criticized the prosecutor for allowing Weise out on bail and she's launched a "Justice for Joey English" group.

"There is no compassion to how it's being done," she told me. "I honestly believe if we were white, our case would have been dealt with and we would have closure."

She still has not received her daughter's remains, in order to bury them.

And while she has praise for Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Stephanie says she was "brushed away" by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau when she tried to tell him about her daughter's case at an event in Calgary over the weekend.

"I don't need his apologies. He can give those to my mother and the ones who went to residential school. What he can do is really look at my granddaughter, and ask if this is going to happen to my granddaughter when she grows up."

The loss in the English family has been great. Joey's sister died of what police deemed suicide. Two other family members were murdered, and two more died from suicide, according to Joey's cousin, Brailon English. Stephanie told me she believes her daughter would still be alive if she'd received more help to treat an addiction.

"Now I sit in that category where my girls are statistics," she says. "That is so heartbreaking."

Statistics — of violence, incarceration, education, health and poverty of Canada's Indigenous — are often what we see. Individual stories don't often break out into the national consciousness. Joey English has not been a national news story. But she and her family are part of the actual lives and pain that we choose to talk about in numbers, a tactic that defangs, sanitizes, and silences their stories.

Their stories are one to listen to, carefully. They tell not just of suffering but of well-earned distrust.

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She said yes: Supermodel Miranda Kerr is engaged to Snapchat co-founder and CEO Evan Spiegel

LGBTQ fiction with a twist

LITERATURE

Canadian fan authors find mainstream success at last

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

For years, Michelle Osgood spent her weekends and evenings writing online stories based on the MTV series Teen Wolf, dreaming of getting published one day.

Then the 27-year-old full-time secretary visited a friend's cute apartment. She started thinking about the kind of character who would live there — and her first original work of fiction was born.

The resulting novel, The Better to Kiss You With, came out in April. It shares elements with her fanfiction: It's a Vancouver-set paranormal lesbian romance, with plenty of werewolves.

"I probably would not have even tried a mainstream publisher," Osgood said.

She turned to Interlude Press, which was founded specifically to help writers like her, with a following online, to cross over to the broader world of books.

Veteran ghostwriter and editor Annie Harper started Interlude in 2014 with two fellow superfans she met on Tumblr, reading and writing fanfiction based on the TV show Glee.

She got the idea at a conference after an executive from Simon & Schuster said fanfiction was telling publishers what people want to read, but aren't getting — that it's a harbinger of literary trends to come.

Interlude doesn't print fanfiction scrubbed of references to source material, à la Fifty Shades of Grey. Its stories draw from the traditions of fanfiction: LGBTQ romance, references to geek culture and, in the works for adults, a fair amount of explicit sex.

"Fanfiction authors tend to take greater risks. They have so much freedom," Harper said. "A lot of authors with deals are frequently told to diminish or downplay LGBTQ characters."

All Interlude books have LGBTQ themes of some sort, and though the stories contain their fair share of angst, the publisher has a happy-endings-only policy.

The company's young-adult imprint, Duet, recently partnered up with the suicide-prevention charity The Trevor Project on an initiative to get 1,000 copies of The Rules of Ever After, one of its most acclaimed titles, into libraries around the U.S.

Positive LGBTQ stories that don't dwell on sexuality are incredibly important to young queer people, but libraries often don't stock them because they seem to rarely get checked out, Harper explained. Librarians tell her that's not the case: Because of stigma, people read the books in the library, or sneak them out without stopping at the desk.

"Coming-out stories are great, but every story shouldn't' have to be a coming-out story," says Interlude author Naomi MacKenzie, 38, a former photographer who lives with her two teenage sons in Mississauga, Ont.

MacKenzie's young adult novel Lodestones, inspired by her childhood in rural New Brunswick, is a comedy with a huge cast of diverse characters and a romance between two men.

She has written fanfiction for more than a decade, mostly in the worlds of Glee and Harry Potter, but this was her first experience of a rigorous, and she says somewhat tedious, editing process that made her book better.

Osgood, on the other hand, studied English in university and said she "doesn't mind red pen" all over her work.

She's already at work on a sequel. All she'll say about it now is, "It involves a character who shows up at the end."

READ IT

Interlude books available from Canadian authors

The Better to Kiss You With by Michelle Osgood, $19.50
Deanna Scott is geek girl. She has a job moderating a mobile role-playing game about werewolves and a crush on her beautiful, butch upstairs neighbour Jamie. Then one of the game's players starts bombarding her with increasingly threatening messages: "I'm a real werewolf and your game is offensive." Deanna thinks he's just some sad guy with an internet connection. But Jamie knows something she doesn't.

Lodestones by Naomi Mackenzie $20.95

Summer Love (short story collection) by various authors including Winnipegger H.J. Coulter, $20.95

Interlude Press, which has its roots in fanfiction but has grown into a bricks-and-mortar publisher, prints positive LGBTQ stories by authors from around the world, including Canadians Naomi MacKenzie and Michelle Osgood. CONTRIBUTED

> **There are so many great fanfiction authors out there who have trouble getting recognition from publishing houses.**
> Michelle Osgood, novelist

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Compelling but tough to read

Plutona
BY: Jeff Lemire, Emi Lenox and Jordie Bellaire
PUBLISHER: Image Comics, 154 pages, $16.99

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

Sometimes a book is hard to read, but compelling at the same time. That's the feeling with Plutona, the tough-yet-tremendous new collection from Image.

It's based on a weird idea. Five kids from the suburbs find the body of Plutona, their city's greatest superhero, lying in the woods.

Unsurprisingly, they don't know what to do. But the events that follow are include several surprises, some of them pretty dark.

The story switches between superheroic hyperbole, for flashback scenes of Plutona, and affecting, ordinary exchanges between the kids as they try to cope with the grim event.

It's all good, but the parts with the children are superb.

As with books like Essex County and Sweet Tooth, Canadian writer Jeff Lemire gives us a story that's full of emotion but doesn't feel in any way overwhelming.

He's a master at this, and the beautiful work of the art team makes this trade paperback, which collects the five-part mini-series for the first time, a special package.

BOOK BRIEF

Gay Ecuadorian author overcomes barriers and publishes novel

As a deaf and gay student in Ecuador, Cesar Baquerizo was bullied and a victim of societal prejudice.

Now, after five years of writing, Pen Name Publishing has released his first novel in English, A Safe Place With You.

The book talks about homosexuality in Ecuador in the '80s, when it was illegal.

"I want to move readers through my words, so they can put themselves in LGBT people's shoes and feel like they are there, in the novel, with my characters," Baquerizo, 30, told the AP in a recent interview.

The book follows a young man named Tomas Diaz and his newly found friends at a conversion therapy clinic in Ecuador, where their families have sent them to "treat" their homosexuality. There, patients are given pills and suffer psychological abuse.

A Safe Place With You was inspired by true events though it is not a memoir.

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What to do when you move to Washington?

INTERVIEW

Writer Jennifer Close pulls from own life in new novel

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

As the Republican Convention in Cleveland dominates headlines and late-night talk-show chatter, for many Washington, D.C., politicos currently working for President Obama, the event marks another kind of personal milestone.

Regardless of who is elected the next American president in October, many staffers will be leaving their jobs, or the city, or politics altogether. Washington author Jennifer Close compares the feeling in the Capitol right now to senior year in college.

"There's a lot of nostalgia already happening, and so many goodbye parties," says Close. "It's the feeling of 'this is the end,' and a whole new group of people will come in, which is so weird about the city."

Close's observations of living in Washington, D.C., are at the centre of her entertaining new novel, The Hopefuls.

After the release of her debut novel, Girls in White Dresses, about a tight-knit trio of women in search of happily ever after, Close had a hard time convincing people that the book wasn't a thinly veiled personal story. With The Hopefuls, she is open about her inspirations: the city and people of Washington.

After Close, a former Condé Nast editor, left New York for D.C. to support her husband as he worked on Barack Obama's first presidential campaign, she found the transition to the new city difficult.

But while she initially disliked her new home and its dominating political culture, she also found it fascinating. And so she began writing a story about a group of characters living in the world's most powerful city, which would eventually become The Hopefuls.

"The first thing I wrote for the book is a rant about how much the character hates D.C.," Close says.

Jennifer Close, who lives in Washington D.C., took from her own experience moving from NYC to the U.S. capital for The Hopefuls. CONTRIBUTED

"I think that was really therapeutic for me."

The book's protagonist, Beth, is also a journalist who follows her politically ambitious husband, Matt, to the Capitol. Beth has a long checklist of things she hates about the city: the relentlessly humid weather, the uniform Ann Taylor dresses, the driving culture and the lack of decent bodegas.

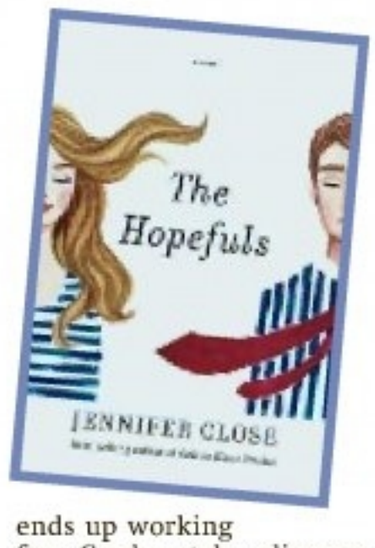
Most of all, she is both bored and frustrated with the fact that it's impossible to have a social conversation that doesn't involve politics or BlackBerries.

> **It's the feeling of 'this is the end,' and a whole new group of people will come in, which is so weird about the city.**
>
> Jennifer Close on the pre-election feeling in the U.S. capital

Beth is inches away from a full-on meltdown when they meet charismatic White House staffer Jimmy, and his wife Ashleigh.

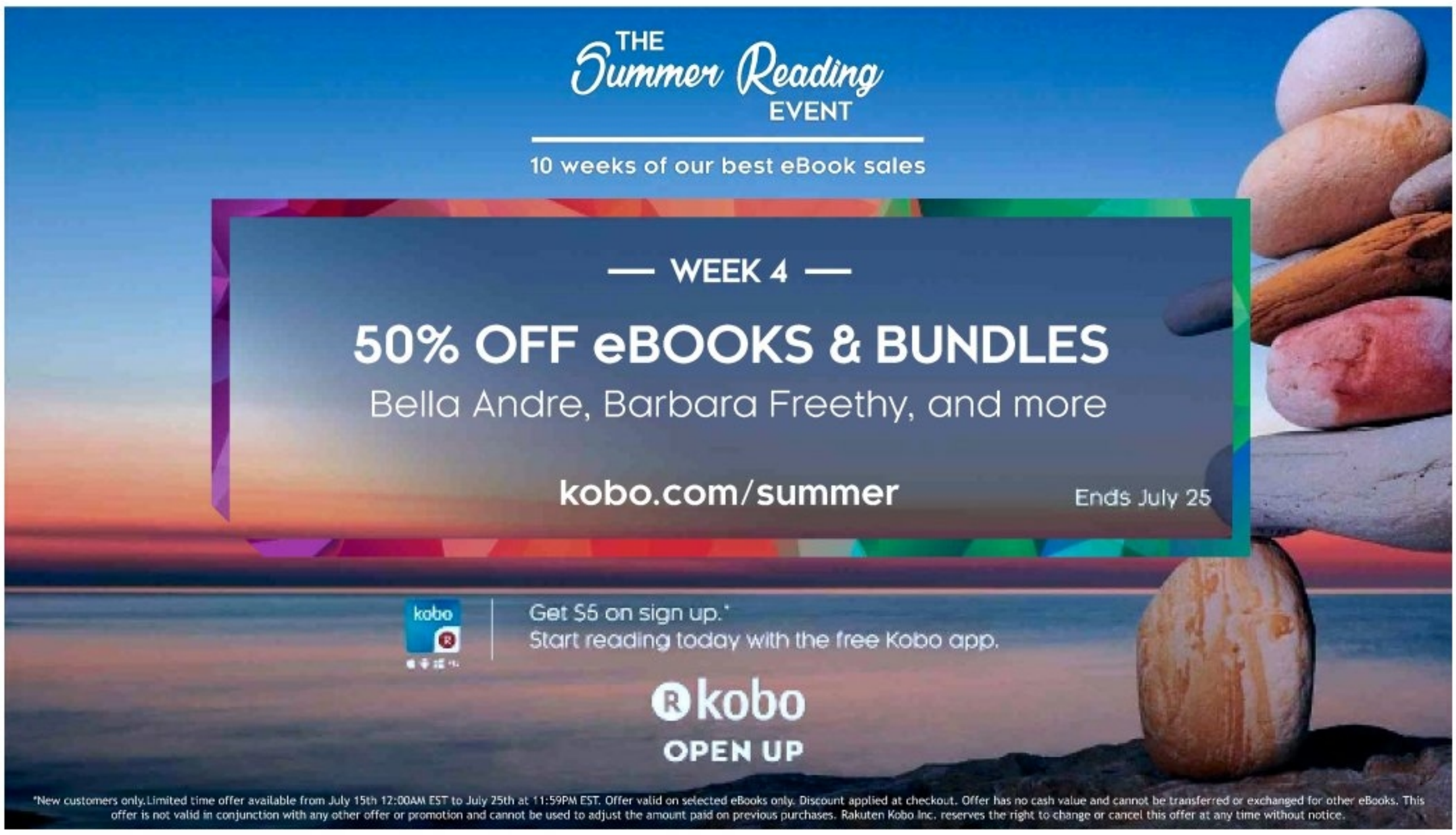
The two couples immediately bond, but when Matt becomes Jimmy's campaign manager, ego and ambition creeps into the friendship.

Close's own transition was not as painful as Beth's, in part because she began teaching creative writing at George Washington University (Beth ends up working for a Gawker-style online gossip magazine). She also met a group of women from outside the political circle, and found support in fellow non-political spouses. Even though six years later, she now thinks of Washington as home, she knew her book needed to capture her original outsider's perspective.



"I was really interested in this world," Close says. "A lot of people will never get to see it."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



Baby drama afoot in Real Housewives

SCANDAL

Bellamar claims C-section schedule conflict led to canning

Shinan Govani
Torstar News Service

"I'm nine months pregnant, and I'm going to be picketing in my Louboutin heels," Ariane Bellamar tells me. "I will not be bullied."

Hell hath no fury like a Housewife scorned, and this one is livid. Dismissed from her post on Toronto's most anticipated reality series The Real Housewives of Toronto — by lawyers via email near the tick of midnight on Friday — the actress-model, 38, is also shining light on a show whose details have been kept secret until now. The reason for Bellamar's termination from the 2017 Canadian spin-off of a franchise with monster-tentpoles in New York, Atlanta and Orange County, Calif.?

It is, she says, because the date of her scheduled delivery by Cesarean section changed. Originally placed in the Google Calendar for August 9 — which the producers knew when she was hired this spring — doctors moved the surgery to August 1, telling her the baby had dropped into position and it would be too dangerous to wait.

What that meant, she says, is that the birth of her child with Texas businessman husband Tanner Slaught would conflict with a ladies trip to Muskoka that the show's production team was preparing to shoot. Bellamar immediately informed producers about the change. The following night, she was axed.

"Is this a joke?" she asked Grant Fraggalosch, the executive producer of the Lark Productions-made show, in an email. Her pleas were forwarded to lawyers.

Lark Productions has not responded to queries from the Star.

"I'm supposed to be decorating my nursery right now," Bellamar says. In front of cameras! Instead, she's making calls to her own lawyers and considering a lawsuit. (Worth nothing: firing or demoting a woman because she is pregnant is contrary to the Ontario Human Rights Code.)

Bellamar was raised in Hamilton, and has a daughter, Emma.

She has reality TV experience (she starred on the reality series, Beverly Hills Nannies), a knack for drama (a quarrel with her millionaire CEO ex-boyfriend Patrick Henry landed her in tabloid of The Daily Mail in 2014) and was born to screech "I'm done!", like every Real Housewife in every city does at some point. (Bellamar's resume also includes porn — movies like The Curse of Medusa.)

Ariane Bellamar claims she was dismissed from Real Housewives of Toronto because her scheduled Cesarean section conflicted with filming of a ladies trip to Muskoka. CONTRIBUTED

"I was supposed to be the firestarter on the show," she says. "I'm very candid." Most importantly (and the reason, I think, so many bona fide socialites in Toronto turned down offers to do the show), "I'm willing to say things because I don't have the connections here," Bellamar says.

"My whole arc" — no surprise that reality shows have "arcs"! — involved "coming back home" and attending the premiere of the movie Suicide Squad, starring Jared Leto. Bellamar has a small part in the film, which was shot in Toronto.

> **"I'm going to be picketing in my Louboutin heels**
> Ariane Bellamar

On the show, her entree into the city's society sphere was to be facilitated by her cosmetic surgeon, the celebrated Dr. Stephen Mulholland, whose wife, Ann Kaplan Mulholland, is a part of the cast, too.

Bellamar says producers were so keen on her pregnancy, they'd already had conversations about her post-baby plot-lines. "They're were talking about filming me getting wasted...for the first time after the baby. I told them, 'I'm going to be breast-feeding!' "

Asked if there might be a reason for her termination, other than her delivery date, and Bellamar shrugs. "I don't know. Maybe it's one of the other Housewives. Maybe they're jealous." (For this line alone, I feel like Bellamar should be immediately re-hired.) Bellamar says she gave up multiple TV projects to secure this role, and now feels stuck in Canada. "I moved a pretty house. I bought a Maserati. I adjusted my whole life. ."

She continues. "To make matters worse, my husband is in the process of moving his businesses to Toronto but can't legally do so until his visa clears ...I lost my income, my husband cannot work in Canada yet, and we cannot change this situation until the baby is able to travel. ."

"When I was with RHOT we had hospital and grand visiting experiences planned, but like the show, those are also gone."

The icing on the cake, she says, is that producers wanted to document her family's move to Toronto, "which included painting, moving boxes, moving in furniture...completing my nursery because the storyline wanted my husband's character to be developed into the 'stay at home dad' whom (sic) was going to decorate, furnish, and prepare the nursery. It is disheartening to walk around my incomplete house, which is still in the condition that Lark wanted it to be for filming."

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Oh, momzilla culture

THE SHOW: Odd Mom Out, Season 2, Episode 3 (Shomi)
THE MOMENT: The Hamilton cameos

Upper-east-side — but still hip and fun — mom Jill (series creator Jill Kargman) and her best friend, single doctor Vanessa (K.K. Glick), sit in a diner bemoaning that they are the only New Yorkers who haven't seen the Broadway sensation Hamilton.

"Are you talking about Hamilton?" their waiter asks. "Isn't it life-changing?"

"We haven't seen it," Jill and Vanessa chorus, shame-facedly. Even their waiter is cooler than they are. "How did you get tickets?" Jill asks.

"I'm friends with one of the actors," he answers. "Javier Munoz?"

Jill Kargman. CONTRIBUTED

They shake their heads. "Well, he gets tickets to every show," the waiter continues. "I can see if he still has them for tonight."

"You are Zeus from on high!" Jill exclaims.

At the end of this episode, scrawls on the screen reveal that the actor playing the waiter is Javier Munoz (he recently took over Hamilton's title role), and furthermore, most of the bit parts — a ticket seller, a dad in the park, a couple on a bench, a theatre usher — are played by members of Hamilton's cast.

Usually, making a specific cultural reference is a risky move in a sitcom; it will date your show, make it sound creaky.

But this sends up rich, snotty momzillas who love nothing more than making their cohort feel inadequate. Culture-shaming is a big way they do it. So the concept will stay current, no matter what novel/play/artist the glitterati move onto next.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

5	2	1	6	8	7	3	9	4
3	6	9	4	2	1	5	8	7
4	8	7	9	5	3	6	2	1
2	9	4	5	6	8	7	1	3
6	1	8	3	7	4	2	5	9
7	3	5	2	1	9	8	4	6
1	5	3	7	4	2	9	6	8
8	7	2	1	9	6	4	3	5
9	4	6	8	3	5	1	7	2

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Nikki Payne

Shield to Shore

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Your essential daily news

Originally listed for $18.5 million U.S., 50 Cent's mansion drops to less than $6M

King Blue Condominiums is located on the site of the former Canadian Westinghouse Building on King Street West. The developer is preserving the façades of the six-storey 1927 warehouse. DUNCAN MCALLISTER FOR METRO

Titans of industry

CONDO TRENDS

Adaptive reuse makes for unique, green design

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

> **This building isn't going to get dismantled and thrown into the garbage.**
> Marnie Mosher of RAW, about their shipping container sales centre

Would you rather live in a condo built in a 19th-century steel foundry than an old church? Toronto is now home to a distinct class of residential dwellings that are recycled from a previous life as a workplace.

Boutique conversions of formerly commercial-industrial buildings have an authentic kind of character that resonates with certain environmentally-conscious urbanites.

This sustainable trend is called adaptive reuse. It's the process of reusing an old site or building for a purpose other than which it was designed for, and architectural firm RAW has done a number of them.

One of their unique projects is the Dovercourt 455 by Curated Properties, a collection of twelve townhomes balanced atop an existing 1950s-era office building at College and Dovercourt.

"We kept the building in order to minimize disruption in the neighborhood." says Marnie Mosher from RAW.

For Curated Properties' Cabin condos, RAW reused industrial shipping containers for the condo sales centre in Toronto's west end."

We wanted something to be reused from that temporary building. So we used shipping containers, stacked them side-by-side, and opened them up on the sides to make bigger spaces." explains Mosher. The structure resembles an urban interpretation of Northern Canada in downtown Toronto.

The containers have been auctioned off to a group with plans to transport them to a remote location to use as cottages.

"This building isn't going to get dismantled and thrown into the garbage." says Mosher.

RAW puts on a yearly gala and animated art installation for members of the design community, always in different locations around the city.

This year's theme was adaptive reuse, and to illustrate the concept, Mosher and her associates blanketed a vacant computer shop with a series of modular cardboard installations.

"We made microenvironments for the party that shifted throughout the night, depending on how the user wanted to use them." she says.

Another fine example of adaptive reuse is the King Blue Condominiums by Greenland Group Canada, located at the former site of the Art-Deco Canadian Westinghouse Building on King Street West.

The heritage team are preserving the north and west façades of the six-storey, 1927-built warehouse.

"This is the highest historical façade ever retained in Canada," explains Greenland project manager Paul McMurray.

"The walls are secured in place with a steel structure to protect the integrity of the fragile terracotta details. The work is being done within a very confined space."

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City regulation hinders growth: Fraser Institute

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

A new study by the Fraser Institute finds that onerous municipal regulations are limiting housing supply and exacerbating housing affordability in the GTA.

Supply of housing is critical, says the report, because the degree to which growing demand for homes drives price increases depends on supply.

For the study, the first of its kind in Canada, the Fraser Institute evaluated the impact of land-use regulation on housing supply in 68 Canadian markets.

It looked at five measures of regulation including approval timelines, timeline uncertainty, the impact of municipal councils and community groups, rezoning, regulatory costs and fees, as well as their effect on supply.

Not surprisingly, the study found that those cities with the most regulation, such as Toronto and Vancouver, had less growth in housing supply and surging prices.

The report says long and uncertain project approval timelines have the most detrimental impact on supply. Increasing the time it takes a builder to obtain a permit by six months reduces the growth of new housing by more than half.

These findings support what BILD has been saying about delays in the approvals process. Development approvals within the GTA can take as long as 10 years and these delays add to the growing price of new homes.

The industry has long pointed to simplifying and streamlining the planning approval process by removing red tape and updating zoning bylaws across the region as some of the things that governments could do to start to address housing affordability.

The report recommends reforming municipal regulation to encourage more building. It says that simplifying the building permits process where housing demand has grown could lower homebuilding costs, increase supply and help reduce home prices.

Opposition from council and community groups was identified by the study as a substantial contributor to decreasing supply. BILD has pointed out on numerous occasions that much of the opposition to development in the GTA is due to a disconnect between public policy and public perception.

Provincial policy mandates intensification, which there is little public understanding of and even less support for. We continue to encourage governments to educate the public on how and why their neighbourhoods are changing.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 NEW SALES CENTRE

College and Spadina: The College condominiums, a new 15-storey residence at College and Spadina, has moved its sales centre and model suite onto the new building site at 297 College St., suite 501. Contact: 416-363-4800, thecollege@tributecommunities.com

2 OPEN HOUSE

High park Swansea: Check out this large, bright three-storey, three-bedroom townhouse in the High Park - Swansea neighbourhood. Head over to 97 The Queensway, on July 23 and 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. Contact: Andrew Ipekian, Keller Williams Referred Urban Realty, Brokerage, 416-388-7955

3 NOW REGISTERING

Mississauga: The Edge Towers condominiums, a new multi-use condo development at Hurontario Street and Elm Drive in downtown Mississauga. Contact: solmar.ca, info@solmar.ca

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

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Hammertown condos from the low 300s

Project overview

The Pasadena is a new luxury residence in Hamilton's Durand neighbourhood. The three-storey, classical, early 19th-century-styled condominium has subtle Art Nouveau flourishes from carefully restored wood and glass front doors to molded plaster beams.

In the neighbourhood

A desirable neighbourhood with lots to offer, the condo is nestled among tree-lined streets, art galleries and intimate restaurants like Radius, the Shipor microbrewery, fusion Mexican spot Mescal, a Nation's Fresh grocery store and the Hamilton Farmer's Market.

Building amenities

Amenities include a private rooftop terrace with a lounge, dining area and outdoor gourmet culinary area. The units offer polished herringbone wood floors, and a nine-foot ceiling and open space leading to the kitchen and living room.

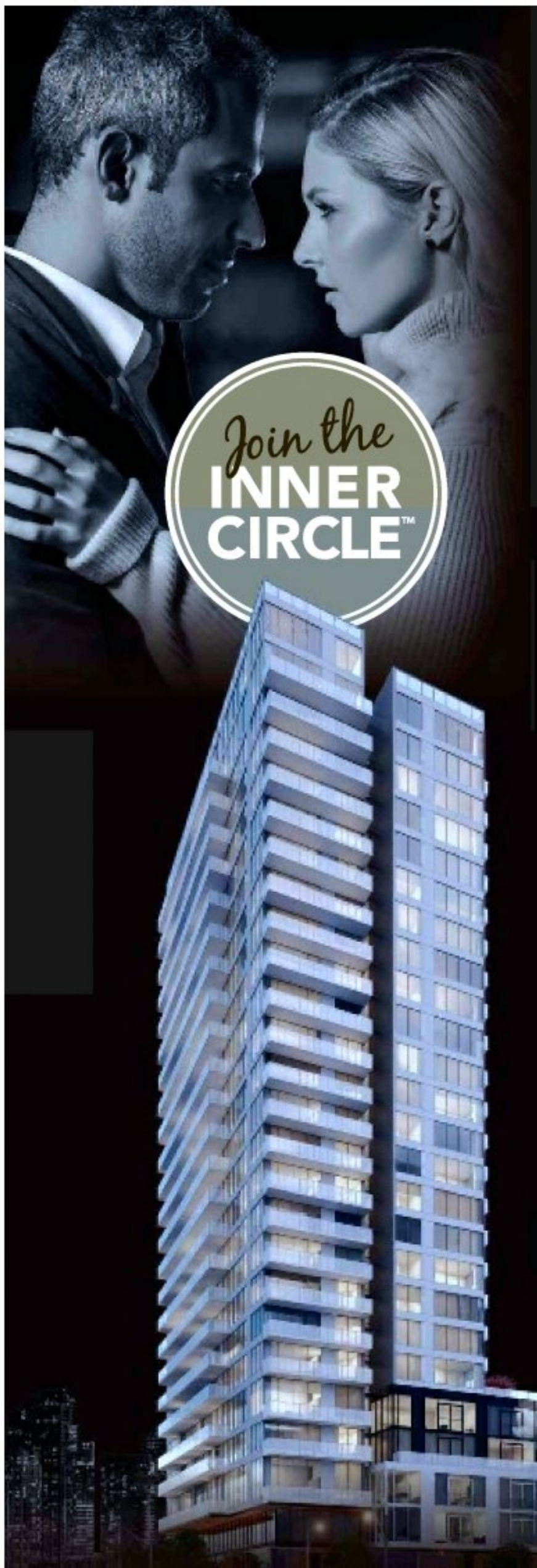
Location and transit

Located in Hamilton's celebrated James Street South restaurant and entertainment district, the building is transit-friendly with the nearby Hunter GO rail station, an express city bus service, and a short drive to the 403 Highway.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: The Pasadena
Builder: Metro Partners
Architect: Lintack Architects
Interiors: In2ition
Location: 27 Bold St., Hamilton
Building: A three-storey condominium with 32 units
Sizes: From 544 to 791 sq. ft.
Pricing: From the low $300,000s
Suites: One bedroom and two bedroom plus den
Status: Pre-construction, registration phase
Occupancy: Early 2017
Sales Centre: Sales by appointment, registration online
Phone: 289-426-5827
Website: thepasadena.ca
Email: info@thepasadena.ca
Twitter: @thepasadena
Facebook: facebook.com/thepasadena



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LEGAL MATTERS

When a neighbour wants to fence you in

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro | Canada

Q: Our neighbour approached my wife last week when she was coming into the house and somewhat confrontationally stated that he wanted to erect a fence between our properties to keep our dog from wandering onto his lot. There is a hedge that runs down the property line and he claims it is entirely on his property.

Apparently he has had his lot surveyed and that is how he discovered it is his hedge.

He plans to remove the hedge which is a nice green division of our properties and put up a chain link fence.

Not only would this look a lot worse, we question whether he can unilaterally just slap up an ugly fence?

A: Unfortunately, he is within his right to put up a fence on his land as long as it meets with city requirements.

However, there are a number of things you might do to head him off (not necessarily legal solutions). Because he is your neighbour and not going anywhere soon, I would discuss some more approachable solutions with him: Agree to keep you dog on a leash in your backyard so it doesn't wander next door; agree to help maintain the hedge so that the shared maintenance makes it a common green barrier rather than him ripping it out and if he is determined to put up a fence, you might want to offer to contribute to the build so that you can afford a nicer-looking barrier between the two properties.

Disputes with neighbours are one of the most common topics I get asked about and more often than not, a legal solution is not the best way forward.

Fences make for good neighbours — except when they're unilaterally imposed and ugly. Offer an irate neighbour solutions that don't involve the law — like keeping your dog leashed — to avoid unwanted barriers. ISTOCK

Shazeen Bandukwala works on dovetails for her box project at The Unplugged Workshop, a class for urban dwellers who like to get their hands dirty. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Generation hands on

DIY

Millennials increasingly attracted to woodworking

On a muggy June night, the sounds of gentle sawing and pounded mallets ring through a white-walled workspace lined with handsaws, chisels, jack planes and planks of wood — cherry, oak, poplar.

Mumford and Sons' first electric album, Wilder Mind, spins on a record player as amateur woodworkers hunch over their workspaces, carefully measuring and chiselling out joints for their Unplugged Woodshop class project — a basic box.

In this Wednesday night class, half of the six participants are millennial city-dwellers. It's a demographic increasingly drawn to maker culture — and woodworking, specifically — as a way to escape mundane desk jobs and feel the satisfaction of working with their hands, say local woodworkers. Retired suburbanites are out, it seems, and young downtowners are in.

Max Lantz, 29, is among that younger cohort taking the box-making class at Unplugged Workshop in Toronto. He works in advertising right now — it's "extremely unfulfilling," he says — and wants to shift gears into woodworking for a career. The craft is more tactile, he notes, while he saws out the dovetail joints that will later join together to secure the sides of his oak box.

"The work that you do is of great practical value, either to yourself or someone else," Lantz adds. "And I don't get that sense when I spend 40 hours a week staring at a two-dimensional computer screen."

Those are the type of young people drawn to the Unplugged Woodshop, a hand-tools-only space in an ivy-covered warehouse in Toronto, according to owner Tom Fidgen. "They have a day job that usually sees them sitting at a computer, or at a desk, or just sitting," he says.

Fidgen builds custom furniture, teaches woodworking classes around the world and has written two books on the subject. Five years ago — long before the Jan. 1 launch of the Unplugged Woodshop — he started noticing growing interest from a younger demographic. A decade ago, that wasn't the case. "Most of my clients were, to be frank, retired old white dudes who'd come over to talk about tools," says Fidgen.

Marc Reeve-Newson has witnessed a similar trend. He's been running woodworking classes for around three years at Site 3 coLaboratory, a 2,000-square-foot makerspace on Ossington Ave. The classes keep selling out, he says, mostly thanks to attendees in their late 20s to early 30s.

Making your own pieces is the antithesis to just buying furniture at a big box store, and that's what draws young people in, Reeve-Newson notes.

"You built it with your own hands. There's certainly some sweat in it, and maybe some blood."

Ceda Verbakel, a self-described "millennial-type," agrees. She's the creative director at Toronto's Maker Festival — a festival celebrating all things "maker," from 3D printing to lockpicking, which runs to Sunday — and director of culture at STEAMlabs, another makerspace around Bloor St. W. and Ossington Ave. "Generally, the millennial, hipster trend toward the 'old school,' shall we say, is from a need to be frugal, and also to buy things that aren't Ikea and will last," she says.

Alongside the woodworking classes popping up in recent years, there is also a push to make tools and spaces more accessible for city-dwellers. It's something the Tool Library is tapping into. The first location launched in 2013, and since then, three more spots have popped up — allowing people to borrow tools, from hammers and chisels to pressure washers and generators, just like they would from a library.

The main demographic of the Tool Library's roughly 28,000 users is in their early 20s to early 40s, says its co-founder, Lawrence Alvarez.

He attributes the popularity of woodworking and other types of maker culture to its ability to empower young people.

"In some ways, we lack a lot of control in terms of job selection, places to live — you get priced out of markets — but there are some things you can control." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRENDS

High hopes for micro apartments

New York City's first "micro" apartment complex is open for business, challenging the limits of minimalist living. What the tiny dwellings lack in square footage, they try to make up for in amenities.

Carmel Place, a 55-unit complex that opened this summer in the Kips Bay neighbourhood of Manhattan, represents the first time in decades that the city has allowed apartments to be built this small — ranging from 260 to 360 square feet. That's roughly the equivalent of a one-car garage.

It's the latest entry in a national trend toward smaller urban housing. The rise in single-person households — now nearly a third of New York City's households — and ever-higher rents led the city to approve the experimental project. Carmel Place got city land and a waiver from New York's 400-square-foot minimum on new apartments, set in 1987.

Frank Dubinsky of Monadnock Development, which built Carmel Place along with the Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association, said there would probably be more new micro-apartments in New York soon.

Compared to other modern buildings in its neighbourhood, Carmel Place offers relatively modest rents, and services and amenities — such as multi-functional furnishings — that are aimed at making small-scale living a little easier. Architectural elements like eight-foot windows and nearly 10-foot ceilings are also meant to make small spaces more livable.

The complex of services and amenities were put together by a company called Ollie, its name inspired by the words "all inclusive."

"Just because people need a living room and a bedroom doesn't mean they need a designated living room and a bedroom. They just need the functionality of both rooms," explains Chris Bledsoe, co-founder of Ollie, which did design work on the apartment interiors as well. The firm nArchitects designed the interior and exterior of the building. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carmel Place, an apartment complex in Manhattan's Kips Bay neighbourhood, has units that range from 260 to 260 square feet but have 10-foot ceilings. HANDOUT

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Two-time Stanley Cup winner Brad Richards has retired with 298 goals and 634 assists in 1,126 games

Jays bats rattle snakes

MLB

Edwin, Josh rake and Marcus dials in to seal sweep

Power hitting is the norm for the Toronto Blue Jays.

When they add a quality pitching performance, the results are impressive.

Josh Donaldson and Edwin Encarnacion each hit two-run homers and Marcus Stroman went eight strong innings in the Blue Jays' 10-4 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday.

Donaldson's homer off Patrick Corbin landed in the Chase Field swimming pool in the first inning. Encarnacion's soaring shot off Daniel Hudson, projected at 471 feet, landed far down the walkway beyond the left field seats in the eighth.

"That was the loudest ball I've ever witnessed live in a stadium, by far," Stroman said. "I was under (in the clubhouse) and I ran out and saw where it landed. It was pretty special. He's the man."

It was Encarnacion's 26th home run of the season and ninth in his last eight games at Chase.

"I haven't seen many like that," manager John Gibbons said. "He rakes it in this place."

Stroman (8-4) allowed a run and eight hits to help the Blue Jays sweep the two-game series. He bounced back from a rough outing in Oakland.

"I didn't command the ball as good in Oakland," he said. "Spinning pitches were left kind of more middle. I just had more action on my pitches today."

Edwin Encarnacion rounds the bases after hitting an eighth-inning long-bomb Wednesday. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

WEDNESDAY In Arizona

BLUE JAYS	D-BACKS
10	4

Darwin Barney tripled in two runs and brought another home with a sacrifice fly for Toronto. Devon Travis had three hits, two of them doubles.

It was another power display for Toronto.

"We've always had that. That's kind of our trademark and you live and die with that," Gibbons said. "We're getting another guy back here Monday (Jose Bautista) that's pretty good at doing that, too."

Corbin (4-9) was tagged for six runs, five earned, on nine hits in 5-2/3 innings to fall to 0-7 at home.

But Arizona manager Chip Hale wasn't all that critical.

"Early, he was not getting ahead in the count and obviously got hurt," he said. "Left the ball out over the plate to Donaldson and he hit it out. Second, third, fourth innings, really got ahead in the count, threw a lot of first-pitch strikes and controlled the zone. I thought he really pitched well."

Tuffy Gosewisch hit a three-run homer off of Brett Cecil in the ninth for Arizona.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AROUND BASEBALL

CUBS 6, METS 2
Anthony Rizzo homered twice off Bartolo Colon, Kyle Hendricks pitched 6 1/3 scoreless innings and Chicago beat New York to take two of three in the rematch of the NLCS.

INDIANS 11, ROYALS 4
Tyler Naquin hit two of the Indians' five homers and had a career-high six RBIs, helping Cleveland rout Kansas City 11-4 to open up a nine-game lead atop the AL Central.

ASTROS 7, ATHLETICS 0
Doug Fister pitched seven innings and Jose Altuve continued his torrid hitting as the Houston Astros defeated the Oakland Athletics 7-0 on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MCLAREN REPORT

Russia expects final decision by Sunday

Russia's top Olympic official expects a final decision by Sunday on whether the entire Russian team will be banned from next month's games in Rio de Janeiro over allegations of state-sponsored doping.

The International Olympic Committee said its executive board will meet via teleconference on Sunday to consider the issue, but added that a final decision was expected "within the next seven days."

The IOC is examining the legal options of a blanket ban following a report by World Anti-Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren that accused Russia's sports ministry of overseeing doping of the country's Olympic athletes.

"The issue will be finally resolved by the end of this week, probably on Sunday," Russian Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukov said Wednesday at a meeting of the ROC. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO BOYCOTT

Regardless of how the various doping-related cases turn out, Zhukov said a Russian Olympic boycott was out of the question.

CFL

Argonauts add depth under centre

After trading quarterback Mitchell Gale to Saskatchewan on July 2, the Argos brought a familiar face back into the fold on Wednesday when they signed Adrian McPherson to a new contract.

The 33-year-old spent the 2015 season as a backup in Toronto, mostly coming in on short-yardage plays.

Adrian McPherson
CONTRIBUTED

"Just depth at quarterback," Argos coach Scott Milanovich said of the move. "We always like to have four (quarterbacks)."

Milanovich and McPherson go back to 2008, when he was the Montreal Alouettes' offensive co-ordinator and McPherson was in his first of five years with the team.

The Argos also signed American defensive end Michael Buchanan and moved defensive back Akwasi Owusu-Ansah to the six-game injured list.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OLYMPICS

Canada unveils beach teams for Rio

Sarah Pavan GETTY IMAGES

When volleyball player Sarah Pavan makes her Olympic debut next month in Rio, her transition from the court to the beach will have come full circle.

The 29-year-old from Kitchener, Ont., spent some 20 years playing the indoor game but when Canada failed to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics she decided to make the shift to sand.

She teamed with Heather Bansley of Waterdown, Ont., in 2013 and the two head into Rio as Canada's top-ranked beach volleyball team.

But the transition for Pavan hasn't been easy.

She said the shift required retraining her body to move and perform differently than she'd been used to playing indoors.

"The technical skills themselves are very different," she said Wednesday at the official unveiling of the Canadian team in Toronto. "A lot of people say, 'Well, it's still volleyball,' but they're two different sports."

For the first time since beach volleyball was added to the Olympic program in 1996, Canada is sending a full quota of two teams per gender to the Games. Pavan and Bansley will be joined on the women's side by Victoria's Jamie Broder and Toronto's Kristina Valjas. On the men's side it will be Chaim Schalk of Red Deer, Alta., and Calgary's Ben Saxton, and Richmond Hill, Ont., duo Josh Binstock and Sam Schachter.

Canada has only one beach volleyball medal, a bronze won by the men's team of John Child and Mark Heese at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canada women top China
Teenage midfielder Jessie Fleming scored a highlight-reel goal in the sixth minute to give Canada a 1-0 win over China on Wednesday in Paris in its penultimate outing before the Rio Olympics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mendes banned two years
UFC featherweight contender Chad Mendes has been suspended for two years after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-doping lab given OK for Rio Games
The World Anti-Doping Agency said Wednesday it has reinstated the laboratory that will carry out drug testing for the Rio Olympics.

The lab was shuttered last month for what WADA called "nonconformity with International Standard for Laboratories."

Olivier Niggli, director general of WADA, said in a statement the lab would be running "optimally" when the Olympics open on Aug. 5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Driving a hard bargain?

NHL

Speculation abounds with Matthews yet to sign with Leafs

Toronto Maple Leafs top draft pick Auston Matthews remained without a contract on Wednesday, the sticking point apparently over performance bonuses that GM Lou Lamoriello has historically avoided in his time as an NHL executive.

There is no reason to panic yet, with hockey still two months away.

But some find it a curious way to do to business for a team that has invested heavily in building through youth, and spent so much time selling the pain of losing to land a player of Matthews calibre.

"This one, to me, feels foolish," an NHL source not involved in the talks told Torstar News Service. "I don't know what Lou's reward is if he wins for the amount

Auston Matthews
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

of risk you take by going this direction."

The Leafs not only risk alienating Matthews and his camp but they may be sending a negative message to players around the league about how the team treats stars, he said.

"I hope Lou's not holding his breath," said an executive with a rival club. "I've got a lot of respect for Lou, but I would not be wagering the house on (the Leafs) being able to hold that line."

Lamoriello declined an interview request.

It is believed Matthews is asking for an entry-level contract consisting of $925,000 in annual base salary (that includes a $92,500 signing bonus) as well as $2.85 million in performance bonuses, the same terms Edmonton's Connor McDavid and Buffalo's Jack Eichel, the top two picks a year ago, received in their first contracts.

Patrik Laine, the second overall pick this year, settled for slightly less ($925,000 and $2.6 million) with Winnipeg.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Caps, Johansson strike deal
The Washington Capitals narrowly avoided arbitration with Marcus Johansson, re-signing the forward to a $13.75 million, three-year contract.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Sam lined up for big job
England is on the verge of hiring Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce to take charge of the national team as Roy Hodgson's successor.

A person with knowledge of the situation told AP on Wednesday that the English FA is close to finalizing Allardyce's appointment.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TFC sign Canadian Ricketts
Toronto FC added some depth at forward on Wednesday by signing Canadian international Tosaint Ricketts. The 28-year-old from Edmonton has been training with TFC since May. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zakarin wins 17th stage, but Froome closes in on victory
Ilnur Zakarin won the first Alpine stage of the Tour de France after using a late attack in the final climb on Wednesday while race leader Chris Froome increased his lead to 2:27 in the overall standings.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Chicken Chili Burger

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Even if you're rushed, do not skip the crema on this zesty burger.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Total time: 45 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 clove garlic, minced really fine
- 1/2 red onion, minced fine
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 1 egg, whisked
- 1 lb ground chicken
- 4 thin slices of cheddar
- 3/4 to 1 cup guacamole
- Lettuce, tomato and whatever else you like on a burger
- 4 buns

Crema
- 1 small (250 ml) container of sour cream
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- Pinch of salt and pepper

Directions

1. In a bowl, stir together the Crema ingredients. In a large bowl, combine ground chicken, garlic, onion, cumin, chili powder, egg, salt and pepper. Shape into patties.

2. Add a touch of oil to your pan and warm over medium heat. Put patties in and allow to cook on one side for about 5 minutes. Flip them and cook 2 or 3 minutes before placing the cheese on top. Cover pan to help the cheese melt. Use a meat thermometer to make sure the internal temperature is 165 F.

3. Toast the buns. Spread Crema on the bottom bun, add lettuce, burger, guac and top with the bun.

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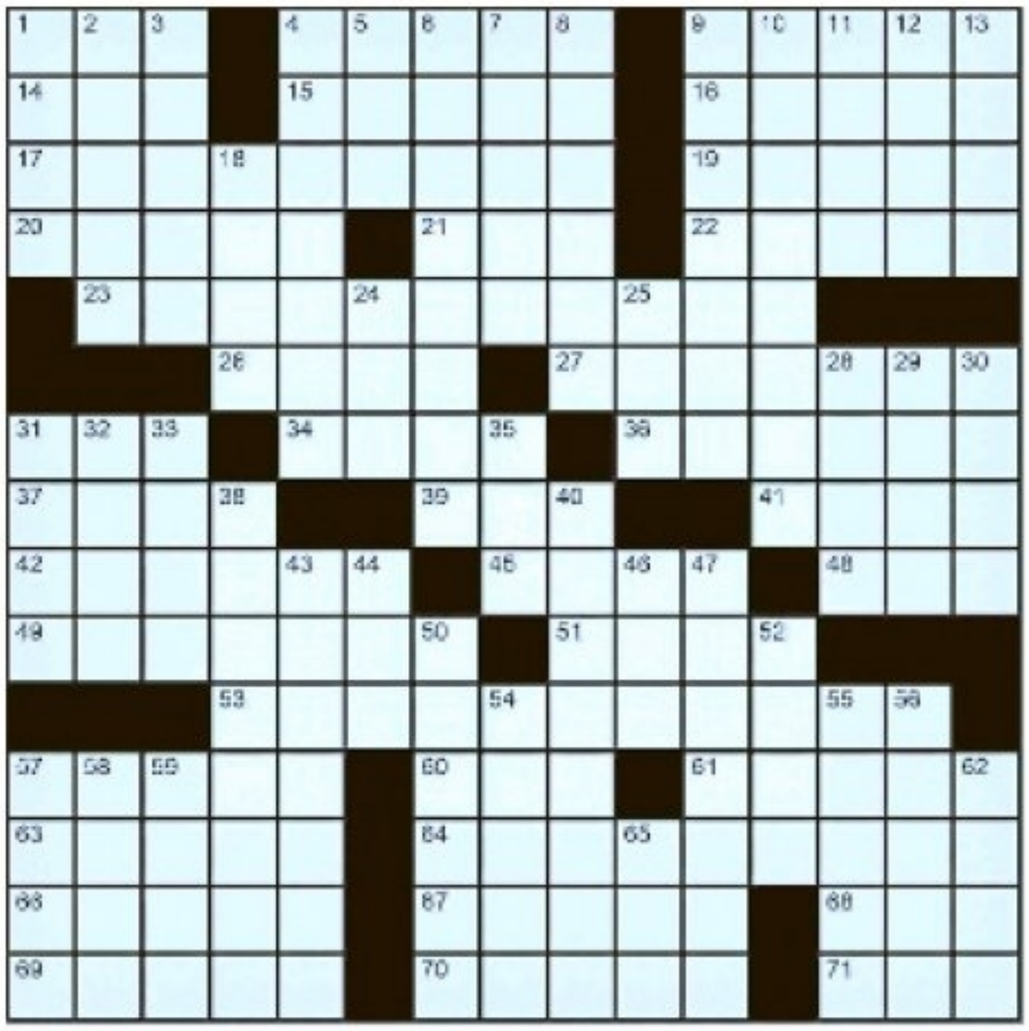
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Mr. Ocasek
4. Anwar _ (Former Egyptian President)
9. Bug's landing spot on a flower
14. Spanish 'bear'
15. City in Australia
16. Reflection
17. Guitar fingering notation
19. Taken-back vehicles
20. Jeweller's unit
21. Caesar's 1002
22. "_ you clever!"
23. Northern Ontario town where filmmaker James Cameron was born in 1954
26. Gladiator's 552
27. Pieces in Bryan Adams' wardrobe
31. USA state
34. Beginning as two-by-two marchers in song...
36. Handbook
37. Drug deal buster, for short
39. Mystery novelist Ms. Grafton
41. Ms. Gershon
42. Greatest extent
45. Chg. card percentages
48. Li'l Australian state
49. Ink pad user
51. Kind of freshwater fish
53. Magician
57. Finely chop
60. Impair
61. Madagascar animal
63. Construe
64. July 22nd to July 24th, 2016: Lumberjack Heritage Festival des _ (Annual bilingually-titled event in #23-Across)
66. Iowa city where 1930 painting American Gothic is set
67. Bodybuilding legend Charles
68. Mr. Bacon, to pals
69. Mustard brand
70. Looks as though
71. Clairvoyance, e.g.

DOWN
1. US campus mil. program
2. "Wicked Game" singer Chris
3. Hooded snake
4. Pancakes flipper
5. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
6. Music store items: 2 wds.
7. Halls-with-skylights
8. Just-one-deity believer
9. Flesh-chomping fish
10. Coming forth
11. Record
12. 1957 Igor Stravinsky ballet
13. For fear that
18. Particular Pacific patrol, puny-ly
24. "_ City" (2005)
25. Philosophy
28. Wreck
29. Treats cowhides
30. Cabbage concoction
31. Cross to bear
32. "Round and Round" rodent rockers
33. Ms. Bombeck
35. Fashion designer Anna
38. Annual pop culture event in San Diego, this year from July 21st to July 24th
40. Gird
43. Abdomen organs
44. _ Aviv
46. Howe'er
47. Overcast
50. Dances in a way
52. Casket stand
54. Lightly fry
55. Chimney plume
56. Melodies
57. Docile
58. Stagnate
59. Without wearables
62. Invitee's 'yes'
65. _ sandwich

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
A friend might throw you a curveball or do something you least expect today. However, you also might meet someone new and unusual — who knows?

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today your relations with authority figures are a bit unpredictable. You don't know if you should stay or jump. Because you don't know, do nothing.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You will love to suddenly travel today; however, travel plans are unpredictable. Enjoy meeting people from other cultures and different backgrounds. Enjoy learning something new.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Something having to do with shared property or inheritances will be unpredictable today. Knowing this, make it a point to do your homework and be on top of things.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You might make a new friend today, or a friend or partner might do something that surprises you. This is an exciting day with lots of electricity in the air!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your ambition is strong today, and so is your intuition. Trust your hunches. Because you feel so independent, you might not be keen to cooperate with others. Hmmm, is this wise?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A sudden invitation to a social event will delight you today. Sports events might have unexpected results, because today is a bit of a crapshoot. Nevertheless, it's a fun day!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might buy something new and high-tech for your home today. Alternatively, something at home might break down. Grrr. That's because your home routine will have some surprises.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You're full of bright, clever, innovative ideas today. Why not write them down so that later, you can run them up the flagpole to see if anyone salutes?

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might have a clever idea about how to boost your income today. Likewise, you spontaneously might buy something, especially something hightech, a videogame or perhaps modern art.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you feel ambitious, impulsive and restless! That's why all kinds of spontaneous suggestions will appeal to you. "I'm ready!"

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a restless day for you, because you want something to happen and you're not sure what. But you want to break free from routine and find some new thrills.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	1	3	8		7			
	7				6		2	3
								1
7	6							9
8							3	5
5								
9	8		3				4	
			9		8	1	7	

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5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††

5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

5-year/Unlimited km 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

Dealers may charge additional fees for administration of up to $499. Charges may vary by Dealer.

®/™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ΔWelcome Bonus of up to $750/$1,000 available on all new 2017 Elantra GL Auto/2017 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD models. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ◊Price adjustments of up to $1,800 (lease price adjustments)/$2,000 (finance price adjustments) available on all 2016 Tucson 2.0L AWD models. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2017 Elantra GL Auto/2016 Tucson 2.0L Premium AWD/2017 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD with an annual finance rate of 0%. Weekly payments are $83/$111/$79 for 60/60/84 months. $0/$0/$750 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination charge of $1,695/$1,795/$1,895, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ◊Leasing offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2017 Elantra GL Auto/2016 Tucson 2.0L Premium AWD/2017 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD with an annual lease rate of 0.9%/0.9%/0.9%. Weekly lease payment of $59/$69/$108 for a 24/60/24-month walk-away lease. Down payment of $0/$999/$0 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $6,136/$18,939/$11,232. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,695/$1,795/$1,895, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Lease offer excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.12/km. ♦Prices of models shown: 2017 Elantra Ultimate/2016 Tucson 1.6T Ultimate AWD/2017 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Ultimate are $30,627/$41,527/$46,627. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,695/$1,795/$1,895, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ΩΔ◊†♦Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.